

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9, 11, and 13-20 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected subject matter.

The abstract was objected to as being more than 150 words. The abstract has been amended to be under 150 words. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to because, on page 2, line 1, page 5, line 1, etc., "there is a wider than normal blank space ... between adjacent words." It is noted that the specification as filed is both right and left justified, which may result in minimal distortions. However, it is believed that the specification as filed is clear and reproducible, as required by MPEP 608.01 and 37 CFR 1.52. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,477,249 to Hotomi in view of Japanese Application No. 2004-129699 to Oguchi et al. (hereinafter "Oguchi"), which was published as Japanese Publication No. 2005-305962 on November 11, 2005. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Oguchi reference is not prior art to the subject application. The Oguchi reference is "effective as of its publication date" (see MPEP 715 III C). In particular, Oguchi was published on **November 4, 2005**.

The subject application is an application filed under 35 USC 371 with a filing date of **August 6, 2004** (International Filing Date of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP004/011376).

Therefore, the filing date of the subject application pre-dates the publication date of the Oguchi reference, and Oguchi does not constitute prior art.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Steven M. Jensen/

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Steven M. Jensen
(Reg. No. 42,693)
Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205

Phone: (617) 517-5531

Customer No. 21874